

# THE CIRCUIT WRITER

Volume 34

Issue 12

## “Happy New Year”

You will probably receive, or be offered, several calendars over the next month. Local businesses, organizations, stores and makers of various products will be happy to give you a calendar displaying their advertising and contact information. In addition to all these free calendars, printing companies make hundreds of designs for sale. Online companies, book and department stores have scores more. Hallmark has almost as many calendars as they do greeting cards, all shapes and sizes, catering to every special interest imaginable.

All of these, though varying in design, have one thing in common. They begin on January 1 and run through December 31. They are Gregorian calendars. Pope Gregory had the calendar changed in 1582 from the Julian calendar of 325, to make calculating Easter easier. Catholics took right to it. Protestant and Orthodox countries came around more slowly. Greece didn't accept it until 1923! Now it is nearly universally accepted civil calendar.

But there are other kinds of calendars, still, which chronicle other sorts of years. The Jewish calendar for year 5774 is about halfway through its 13 month leap year. And there is the calendar of the Christian Church year, which begins on the first day of Advent (Dec. 1, this year) and runs through the week of Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014. Whatever pretty or useful calendar you do business by in the coming year, I urge you to shape your spiritual life by the Church calendar, its seasons and holy days.

Our culture, it seems, has fallen to following the calendar set by Hallmark and Walmart, the shopping year. By that calendar, Christmas season began about the start of October and came into its fullness right after Halloween. Now, I'm not going to get on my crotchety-old-geezer soapbox and start grouching about the good old days when Christmas shopping held off until the day after Thanksgiving; at least I won't, here and now. What concerns me more is the end of the season. About mid-day on Christmas, when all the gifts have been opened and dinner consumed, the commercial calendar will tell you Christmas is over. December 26, there will be valentines on the shelf, and a deepening depression in the hearts of many that follows the hustle and bustle of the year's most frantic season.

It need not be so. According to the calendar of the Church Year, the real Christmas season will have just begun, and will continue for 12 more days, leading up to the high holy day of Epiphany, January 6. This holiday predates the observation of Christmas, and was celebrated to acknowledge the visitation

of the wise men and the light of heaven being given for all humankind. Christmas celebrates the birth of the Jewish Messiah. Epiphany heralds the inclusion of all us gentiles, too, into the family of God.

Unfortunately, most folks will be worn out by the shopping season before Christmas really begins. Twelve more days of such bedlam is too much to bear. Yet, the post-holiday crash is such a let-down that perhaps observing the real season, quietly, at a relaxed pace, might just be the answer to those holiday blues.

I suggest you start decorating and shopping later this year, maybe waiting until a week or two before Christmas. Then plan to leave the tree up and the lights on for the next 12 days. Plan some small gatherings of friends and family, sharing memories and stories instead of merchandise. Shop the after holiday sales for trinkets to send to those you can't be with. Send cards to those you forgot earlier. Visit neighbors and friends. Take cookies.

Purchase some baby items to bring to the baby shower for Jesus we will have during worship on January 5th, as we celebrate Epiphany. Some needy families will receive the gifts.

In the spirit of the season;  
Peace, Tom

### DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist Michael Targosz  
Ushers W.T. & Franny Ray  
Youth Liturgists, Acolytes, and Ushers: Matthew Webb,  
Clair Webb, Megan Moore, Cody Dove, & Craig Raymond

### A RECORD OF OUR FAITHFULNESS NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

#### By Our Gifts

2013 Budget income received	\$2,027.51
2013 Budget income needed	\$3,202.96
2013 Budget income weekly (under)	\$1,175.45
2013 Budget income year to date (under)	\$11,319.95

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**CHARGE CONFERENCE** DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 7:00PM  
 Monterey Christmas Parade December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
 Office Closed at noon on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and all day Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Office Closed at noon on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and all day Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE BEGINS AT 6:30PM**

**MONTHLY & WEEKLY CHURCH SCHEDULING**

Sunday School	Sundays at 10:00am
Staff Meeting	Tuesdays at 9:15am – 10:30am
Cub Scouts #15	<b>First Monday</b> of each month at 6:00pm
Garden Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30am
Civitan Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm
Standing Stone	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
AGAPE Chapel	Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:00pm
Girl Scouts #1581	First Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Discipleship Meetings	Fridays at 2:00pm
Cub Scouts #15	Fridays at 6:00pm
Cottage Ministry	Fridays & Saturdays 9:00am-3:00pm

**MONTEREY'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

In an effort to update our records and to include your information in the newsletter, please send the church your birthdays and anniversaries. *(Please list the name(s) and date(s) of all in your family who are connected to the church. Thank you!)*

Ron Sontag	(12/3)
Chris Looper	(12/5)
Pastor James Johnson	(12/6)
Annie Looper	(12/6)
Kent McCormick	(12/11)
Theresa Looper	(12/12)
Judy Powell	(12/12)
Joyce Steinmetz	(12/13)
Meretha Durham	(12/13)
Abby Baker	(12/14)
Rev. Dickie Hinton	(12/14)
Kathy Denton	(12/15)
Bob Eldridge	(12/16)
Richard Jackson	(12/19)
Patricia Hudgens	(12/20)
Megann Sheckler	(12/22)
Sandi Vanacore	(12/23)
Taylor Reese	(12/26)
Ed Bruce	(12/29)
Matthew Webb	(12/30)

**MONTEREY'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

John & Marion Barwick	(12/1)
Richard & Linda Jensen	(12/21)
J.T. & Ina McCormick	(12/22)
Ed & Judith Bruce	(12/29)
Rev. Dickie & Thelma Hinton	(12/30)

**POINSETTIAS will be on display in the sanctuary in memory or honor of loved ones during the Advent Season. Below is a listing of those we are remembering:**

**In Memory of:**

Margaret Webster  
 Jim Reese  
 Joe Tolley  
 Gregory Scott Gibson & Joyce Kathleen Gibson

**Given by:**

*David & Judy Webster*  
*Linda Reese*  
*Novi Tolley*

*Rev. Tom & Vickie Gibson*

Ed & Ruth Gibson & J.D. & Geneva Barrett

*Rev. Tom & Vickie Gibson*

Nona Newbern

*Byron Newbern*

Elise & Rector Hixson

*Janice Boswell*

John & Mary Boswell

*Janice Boswell*

Jess & Helen Williams

*Lynn Connor & Ellen McPherson*

Jim & Ella Williams

*Lynn Connor & Ellen McPherson*

Gerri Lusk

*Linda & Richard Jensen*

Stacy Degan

*Linda & Richard Jensen*

Mary & Bill McClain & Anne McClain Steele

*Franny & W.T. Ray*

Lillian & Bill Turner Ray

*Franny & W.T. Ray*

Jack Ray Jr.

*Franny & W.T. Ray*

Her family members

*Darlene Greene*

Their Parents

*Nick & Joan Axen*

Richard & Doris Milligan

*Keelan & Marcy Milligan*

Ted & Ruby Vail

*Ed & Louise Vail*

The Nimmo Family

*Ed & Louise Vail*

The Roth Family

*Ed & Louise Vail*

Loved Ones

*Elora Stinger*

Jim Reese

*Linda Reese*

Mr. & Mrs. WW Breeding

*Ann Karch & Mr. & Mrs. Bill Medley*

G.O Looper

*Johnny & Theresa Looper*

**In Honor of:**

Jesse & April Williamson

*Ron & Vikki Williamson*

Their Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

*Nick & Joan Axen*

Our Grandchildren: Annie, Malia, Sofia & Kace

*Johnny & Theresa Looper*

Her Family, The Redhorns

*Diana Krzemien*

**THANK YOU**

Your clergy partners, Rev. Tom Gibson and Rev. Connie Hall, wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many kind words, and the generous "surprise" gifts we recently received during Pastors Appreciation Month. We, in turn, appreciate you, for the love, compassion and service we see regularly in the laity of this great congregation.

**FOLLOWING THE STORM**

United Methodists were among the first responders to provide emergency supplies to the victims of the Nov. 8 typhoon striking the Philippines. The United Methodist Committee on Relief announced a \$97,000 grant Nov. 11 to provide emergency food, water, and water purification tablets to 7,500 individuals (or 1,500 families). Funding also helped the on-site UMCOR staff and volunteers in building their capacity to meet the rising emergency needs.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines, a United Methodist partner, has called for international ecumenical support in coordinating relief efforts with the ACT Philippines Forum, local churches, and community organizations. Church World Service has announced its support for UMCOR’s early response and relief efforts as has Lutheran World Relief, and Christian Aid.

The three active United Methodist bishops in the Philippines and two retired bishops were attending the denomination’s Council of Bishops meeting at Lake Junaluska, N.C. Our Bishop McAlilly prayed for all affected by storms “where lives are lost and homes destroyed and crops are drowned. We ask you, oh Lord, to heal us, to save us that our hearts might be pure.”

About 200 United Methodist families were said to live in the affected area. In the hardest hit Annual Conference of the Philippines, Visayas, six of 28 local United Methodist churches were seriously affected. There was no immediate report of loss of life among church members, but many homes were destroyed. Churches too reported extensive damage.

Retired Philippines Bishop Daniel C. Arichea Jr. said the broader United Methodist connection “is very important” to providing needed aid.

Support UMCOR’s relief and recovery work in the Philippines by contributing to:

[International Disaster Response, Advance #982450.](#)

There are many ways to support UMCOR’s work. You can donate online or over the phone by calling 1-800-554-8583. Make checks (payable to UMCOR) to P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087. If given to the local church designate funds for UMCOR in the memo of your check and place in the offering plate. UMCOR is a registered 501(c) (3) charity. All gifts are tax deductible.

Rev. Connie Hall

**NOTE FOR THOUGHT FROM JOHN BARWICK**

Grace is not a little prayer you say before receiving a meal.  
It’s a way of life

**GIRL SCOUTS TROOP #1581**



Girl Scouts purchased a tree from Johnson’s nursery and they have planted it in the AGAPE playground

**THANK YOU**

United Methodist Church Family,

I want to start off by telling you all thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am so very grateful for all of your prayers, dinners and donations. I am also very thankful for the get well cards I received in the mail. I deeply appreciate all of you. The last few weeks have been very hard on myself and family and the next few weeks ahead are also going to be a challenge. But through God’s grace we will make it through. Once again thank you all and please continue to keep us in your prayers.

God Bless,  
Aimee Webb & Family

**AGAPE PRESCHOOL**



FUN PLAYING IN THE PRESCHOOL KITCHEN

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The people of The United Methodist Church\*

Church office: 931-839-2597  
Church e-mail: [church@montereyumc.com](mailto:church@montereyumc.com)  
[www.montereyumc.com](http://www.montereyumc.com)

Come worship with us at Monterey at 11am



*The mission of Monterey United Methodist Church is to make  
Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Monterey United Methodist Church  
124 North Holly Street  
Monterey, TN 38574

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Monterey United Methodist Church*  
*Agape Preschool*  
*Enrollment*

**Quality Christian preschool for parents seeking  
faith based education for their children.**

Children ages 2.5 - 4 years  
Small classes taught by State  
Certified Teachers focusing on  
language and reading skills  
Free breakfast and lunch  
provided daily  
Free dental care

***No cost to low  
income families***



**For more information contact:  
Monterey United Methodist Church  
Corner of N. Holly & Crawford  
931-839-2597**

Monterey United Methodist Church Agape Preschool is a faith based organization  
and a member of the United Methodist Association of Preschools




# Monterey United Methodist Church



## December 2013

...and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." Isaiah 2: 3 (ESV)

The people of The United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service 7:00p-CHARGE CONFERENCE	2 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	3 9:15a-Staff Meeting	4 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel 4:30p-Girl Scouts #1581 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel	6 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	7 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:30p-Monterey Christmas Parade
8 Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72: 1-7 Romans 15:4-13 Luke 1:47-55 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	9	10 10:30a-Garden Club-	11 9:15a-Staff Meeting 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel 6:30p-Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel	13 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	14 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
15 Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalms 96 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Music Service	16	17 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:00p-Civitan's	18 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel	19 8:30a-AGAPE Chapel	20 AGAPE CLOSED 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	21 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
22 Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	23 AGAPE CLOSED	24 AGAPE CLOSED 9:00a- OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON 9:15a-Staff Meeting 6:30P-CANDELIGHT SERVICE AT MUMC	25 Christmas Day 	26 AGAPE CLOSED	27 AGAPE CLOSED 9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	28 9:00a-Cottage Ministry
29 Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalms 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Luke 2-21-38 10:00a-Sunday School 11:00a-Worship Service	30 AGAPE CLOSED	31 AGAPE CLOSED 9:00a- OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON 9:15a-Staff Meeting	OFFICE CLOSED		9:00a-Cottage Ministry 6:00p-Cub Scouts #15	9:00a-Cottage Ministry